

May 8, 2015

Andy Slavitt, Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-26-12
Baltimore, MD 21244

RE: Support for California's 1115 Waiver Renewal Application: Medi-Cal 2020

Dear Administrator Slavitt,

The California Long-Term Care Education Center (CLTCEC) is a 501(c)(3) organization and is the largest training provider of In-Home Supportive Service (IHSS) workers in the state of California. CLTCEC teaches IHSS workers new skillsets to enable them to serve as part of the Integrated Care Team (ICT), contributing to improved health outcomes and a better quality of life for both Medicaid and dually eligible recipients.

CLTCEC writes in strong support of "Medi-Cal 2020," California's application for renewal of its 1115 Waiver. Medi-Cal 2020 builds off of the successes of "2010 Bridge to Reform" 1115 Waiver, which specifically allowed for funding of the demonstration project "Cal Medi-Connect."

Cal Medi-Connect set the stage for IHSS workers to play a role on the ICT of the consumers they care for, if the consumer so desires. In preparation for that role, CLTCEC applied for a Health Care Innovation Award (HCIA) and in 2012 was awarded an \$11.8 million grant from CMS for our project titled, "Care Team Integration of the Home Based Workforce." As proud recipients of this award, we train IHSS workers in 10 core competencies and also train them to take on enhanced roles as part of the ICT in order to care for, monitor the health of, communicate, coordinate services for and navigate on behalf of the consumer. The posit of the grant is to train and integrate 6,000 consumer and IHSS worker pairs into the ICTs, in order to meet the triple aim of better health, better care, and lower costs to the tune of \$24 million in savings.

A preliminary analysis conducted by the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Nursing shows that consumers with trained IHSS workers are less likely to go to the emergency room or be admitted to a hospital than those with untrained IHSS workers. Although these findings are based only on consumers with inpatient stays and emergency room visits among the trained group, the direction towards reduced utilization is promising.

California is at the crux of an acute need to support the growing number of seniors. The California Department of Finance projects the population of people ages 65 and over to increase

by almost 50 percent, from 4.3 million to 6.3 million seniors, between 2010 and 2020. To support this influx, home care occupations are among the fastest growing occupations in the State. There are currently over 423,000 personal care aides in California and the demand for this workforce is expected to increase by 52 percent between 2012 and 2022 according to the California Employment Development Department. It is vital to both the care of the consumer, and the cost of the program, that IHSS workers have the opportunity to be trained. California is uniquely situated to be at the forefront of homecare worker training and because of that, can be a leader in advancing the goals of the triple aim.

CLTCEC would like to see Medi-Cal 2020 funded to allow for training of IHSS workers in California. More specifically, we would like to see CMS's initial investment to CLTCEC through the HCIA expanded through the Workforce Development portion of the Medi-Cal 2020 proposal in order to train IHSS workers on a much larger scale in California.

We believe that it is vital to the health and welfare of seniors in California, as well as for the IHSS workers who care for them, for Medi-Cal 2020 to be funded and we respectfully urge your approval of Medi-Cal 2020.

Sincerely,



Corinne Eldridge
Executive Director
California Long-Term Care Education Center

Cc: Victoria Wachino, Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Diana Dooley, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Mari Cantwell, Medicaid Director, DHCS
Jennifer Kent, Director, Department of Healthcare Services
Marjorie Schwartz, Office of Senate Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon
Agnes Lee, Office of Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins